



# The Farnham Society

Heritage Open Days 2020

## Report to Annual General Meeting 2021.

Our Heritage Open Days festival for 2020 was conducted under the constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic.

While the festival traditionally takes place in September, our planning has to start early in the year. When the HODs team met to start the process, the pandemic was evolving, restrictions were being imposed and we had no way to predict what situation we would be facing in September, and what constraints would prevail. During the spring of 2020, we decided that we should organise events in some form, to keep the spirit of HODs alive until better times came. At that time there was the possibility that indoor events and organised group gatherings could be prohibited. We focussed on outdoor spaces and devised a set of self-guided tours of green spaces in and around Farnham.

These were the basis of two leaflets, one listing parks and gardens in the town centre, the other listing open spaces in the district surrounding the town. All spaces were selected on the basis of being open to the public, accessible without prior arrangement.

Printed copies of the two leaflets were made available at sites in the town, including the Farnham Town Council office, the Oxfam bookshop, and the Farnham Herald office. The leaflets were also posted on our website.

The green spaces listed are open all year round, not only in HODs week. Copies of the leaflet were retained at the Town council office, as public information, alongside other town guides. It is hoped that they will continue to inspire visits to these important green spaces.

Simon Bradbury

22 October 2021